TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 30 totaled an estimated 16.2 billion ton-miles, 3.4 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 17 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 257.1 billion ton-miles, 5.6 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 30 totaled 371,322 cars, 5.4 percent below 1982, but 3.4 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 9.8 percent in the East, 5.4 percent in the South and 2.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, loadings of lumber and wood products were up 18.4 percent, petroleum products posted a gain of 9.9 percent, and stone, clay and glass products increased by 5.8 percent. Fourteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 23 totaled 43,472 cars, up 17.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 74,193 trailers and/or containers, 8.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 16 weeks of the year was 663,504 cars, 15.7 percent higher than last year, and 1,134,597 trailers and/or containers, up 11.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/30/83:

	Loadings in Week ended April 30, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,140	D	1,857	8.1	D	1,341	6.0
Other farm products	3,796	D	852	18.3	I	235	6.6
Metallic ores	20,379	D	406	2.0	I	4,691	29.9
Coal	98,400	D	21,906	18.2	I	616	0.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,798	D	25	0.3	D	197	2.0
Nonmetallic minerals	11,772	I	251	2.2	I	208	1.8
Grain mill products	11,287	D	931	7.6	D	109	1.0
Food and kindred products	12,216	D	1,236	9.2	D	370	2.9
Primary forest products	15,400	D	195	1.3	D	66	0.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,737	I	1,204	18.4	I	472	6.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,482	D	2,044	11.7	I	529	3.5
Chemicals and allied products	24,763	I	32	0.1	I	2,005	8.8
Petroleum products	5,169	I	464	9.9	I	358	7.4
Stone, clay and glass products	10,627	I	585	5.8	I	194	1.9
Coke	4,847	D	255	5.0	I	90	1.9
Metals and products	9,820	D	1,900	16.2	I	888	9.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,897	I	702	4.1	I	213	1.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,665	D	58	0.7	I	161	1.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,574	D	412	4.6	D	250	2.8
All other carloads	53,330	I	8,933	20.1	I	3,849	7.8
LCL traffic	223	D	1,324	85.6	D	30	11.9
Total Cars Loaded	371,322	D	21,230	5.4	I	12,146	3.4
Corresponding week of 1982	392,552						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (17 weeks)	5,907,355	6,466,123	D 8.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
16 weeks ended April 23	240.9	255.5	D 5.7
Week ended April 30	16.2	16.8	D 3.4
17 weeks cumulative	257.1	272.3	D 5.6

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